

WASHINGTON STATE

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS OFFICER

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST 2006

CATEGORY	AUGUST 2006	AUGUST 2005	YTD 06	YTD 05
CSEPP INCIDENTS	3	11	41	56
DOE INCIDENTS	2	2	6	5
FIRE	56	58	233	221
HAZMAT	159	180	1448	1405
OTHER	55	21	314	224
911 OUTAGES	6	1	26	29
SAR	72	67	505	402
TERRORIST	1	0	1	0
WEATHER	6	10	42	48
CGS INCIDENTS	0	0	1	2
TOTAL	360	350	2616	2392

LEGEND

CSEPP	Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program
DOE	Department of Energy, Hanford Site
SAR	Search and Rescue Missions
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials Incidents
WEATHER	Weather Incidents (throughout state, i.e., Flood, High Winds, and Snow)
CGS	Columbia Generating Station
FIRE	Forest Fire Incidents
OTHER	This category includes a wide variety of incidents, i.e., Tsunami, Earthquake, Critical Incident Stress Debriefings, Bomb Threat, etc...
911	911 Service Outages
ESAR	Evidence Search Mission (not included in total numbers)

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- On 3 August, the University of Washington Seismology Lab reported a 3.8 magnitude earthquake near Cherry Grove, Washington about 20 miles north of Portland. The event was felt in Clark and Cowlitz Counties. Minor damage was reported in the area after the quake but no injuries.

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- On August 4, the National Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning for portions of Eastern Washington. The Red Flag Warning expired later in the evening without incident.
- On August 5, the USGS reported a 3.6 magnitude earthquake at Mount St Helens. No reports of the quake being felt in the region were received.
- On August 5, the National Weather Service in Pendleton issued a Fire Weather Watch for the Southeast portions of Washington State due to the dry/hot conditions and expected thunderstorms. The Fire Weather Watch was later raised to a Red Flag Warning as temperatures and humidity increased the fire danger. Finally the Red Flag Warning was rescinded on 08/10/06 as temperatures and humidity moderated as a new frontal weather system moved through the state.
- On August 6, a distress signal was received by a radio operator in Okanogan County. The signal was believed to have originated in the vicinity of Mount Hardy along the Pacific Crest Trail. Helicopter support was coordinated from Chelan County to assist in the search. The search mission was closed late the next day when nothing was found.
- On August 9, the State EOC activated to Phase II Enhanced Operations in response to the Badger Hollow and Valley Mill Fires in Columbia/Walla Walla and Stevens Counties, respectively. The Valley Mill Fire consumed 460 acres when demobilization was declared at 1600 hours on August 11th. The Badger Hollow Fire consumed 20,000 acres and was demobilized at 1800 hours on August 9th.
- On August 10, at 0100 hrs in response to planned attacks against commercial airlines flying to the United States from the United Kingdom the Secretary of Homeland Security raised the national Homeland security alert level to Red (severe) for all in-bound flights to the United States. In addition, he raised the alert level to Orange (high) for all other flights to the United States as well as U.S. commercial domestic flights operating in the U.S. There was no specific threat to Washington State however the State EOC activated to Phase II Enhanced Operations in response to the increased security measures. The threat level was reduced from red to orange for in-bound flights from the United Kingdom on 08/13/06 as additional security measures were implemented to decrease these aviation terrorist threats.

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- On August 10, the National Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning for the central and northern Columbia River basin area of Eastern Washington. The forecast included heavy thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds. Additionally, Severe Thunderstorm Warnings were issued for Asotin and Okanogan counties. The Red Flag warnings were allowed to expire late in the day however the Severe Thunderstorms started several new fires throughout Northeast Washington.
- On August 11, an Amber Alert was issued for a 3 year-old female from the Bremerton area. The suspect was apprehended later in the morning as the 3 year-old child was found safe in the suspect's vehicle.
- On August 12, Skamania County requested assistance from Clark County's Silver Star Search and Rescue team for the rescue of an injured hiker on the Cape Horn Trail. Six Silver Star members assisted in the rescue. The hiker was safely extracted and transported to a local hospital for treatment.
- On August 14, Jefferson County opened a search for a missing hunter in the Forks area. One search dog team from Grays Harbor and one team from Kitsap were coordinated to aid in the search. The hunter was found with minor injuries on August 15th and transported to a local hospital for treatment.
- On August 16, the National Weather Service in Pendleton issued a Red Flag Warning for Garfield and Columbia Counties. The warning was allowed to expire later that same evening.
- On August 17, Pierce County authorities reported a pipe bomb had been detonated in the Puyallup Municipal Court and Administrative building in downtown Puyallup. Authorities apprehended "a person of interest" at the scene of this incident and began to question him. The Washington State Alert & Warning Center coordinated incident information for the Department of Homeland Security.
- On August 17, the Washington State Alert & Warning Center was notified by the Washington National Guard and the Department of Homeland Security that the Tri-State Airport in Huntington, WV had been shut down due to a security issue. Airport officials and State Police identified what was believed to be liquid explosives in the luggage of a Pakistani individual prompting the deployment of the 35th Civil Support Team to the area. The incident was later terminated when field testing of the material resulted in a false positive reading. The subject being held in custody was subsequently released.

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- On August 19, the National Weather Service issued a Fire Weather Watch for Eastern Washington which was then upgraded to a Red Flag Warning for many Eastern Washington Counties on August 20th. By August 21st the Red Flag Warning included the entire eastern side of Washington State. The Red Flag Warning was finally cancelled on August 23rd as temperatures and humidity levels improved throughout the state.
- On August 22, a fire mobilization was approved for the Columbia County Complex fire in Columbia County. Initial reports indicated the fire was started by lightning, exceeded 2000 acres within a matter of a few hours and threatened homes in the area south of Dayton. The State EOC was activated at 0600 hrs. On August 23, another fire mobilization was requested for a fire the in Walla Walla County. As these two separate fires merged the state EOC was activated for the County to Phase II. 50 homes/structures were threatened and 100 people were initially evacuated. As of August 31st this fire had burnt a total of 79,324 acres, 25% contained and is still being fought.
- On August 23, Fire Mobilization was requested for a 4,000 acre fire along Palouse River Road approximately 6 miles east of Colfax in Whitman County. Twelve rural homes were threatened with 50 or more in the town of Colfax. The State EOC remained at Phase II Enhanced Staffing to support the firefighting efforts throughout Washington State. The fire was demobilized on Sunday August 27th however the fire continues to burn.
- On August 25, Fire Mobilization was requested and approved for the 1,000 acre Cedar Creek fire burning near Mazama in Okanogan County. Okanogan County reported 150 to 350 homes were in the projected path of the fire. The State EOC remained at Phase II Enhanced Staffing to support the firefighting efforts throughout Washington State. As of August 31st this fire had burnt a total of 1,120 acres, 05% contained and is still being fought.
- On August 26, the National Weather Service issued a Fire Weather Watch for Southeast Washington for Monday the 28th. The watch was issued for expected low relative humidity (10-15%) and high Haines Index (6 on the scale). On the 27th the Fire Weather Watch was changed to a Red Flag Warning for: Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield & Asotin Counties from 1100 a.m. to 0900 pm on Monday which replaced the Fire Weather Watch. On August 28th another Fire Weather Watch was issued for the Northeast Washington Counties of: Spokane, Pend Oreille, Stevens, and Lincoln for Tuesday, August 29th and then was increased to a Red Flag Warning. The Red Flag Warning ended at 08:00 PM on August 29th.

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- On August 27, Snohomish County opened a search & rescue for 7 missing mountain rescue members on Foggy Peak near Barlow Pass in Snohomish County. Additional search & rescue resources were coordinated from King, Skagit & King County (Mountain Rescue and ESAR Ground Rescue volunteers and a helicopter from King County). The lost individuals were found and “walked out” of the area in good condition the same day.
- For the month of August 2006 the SEOO’s:
 - Issued 123 warnings to jurisdictions for imminent or occurring emergencies
 - Issued 14 warnings to tribal nations for imminent or occurring emergencies
 - Conducted 1242 notifications to state agency liaisons for imminent or occurring emergencies
 - Coordinated 35 resources for search, rescue, recovery and response operations
 - Participated in 35 exercises of which 22 were vessel spill drills
 - Made 1269 and answered 1595 telephone calls
 - Conducted 64 National Warning System Tests, conducted 300 Comprehensive Emergency Management Network (CEMNET) radio tests. (connects all counties and many cities via Zetron Radio Console)
 - Conducted 58 dedicated line tests with the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP)
 - Conducted 4 dedicated line tests with the Department of Energy, Hanford Site (DOE)
 - Conducted 8 dedicated line tests with the Columbia Generating Station (CGS)